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THE GULL

Golden Gate Audubon Society Berkeley, California Volume 69 Number 9 October 1987



ON SAFARI WITH TERRY STEVENSON

Imagine sighting 342 bird species in one day, breaking your own world record in the process! Terry Stevenson, the leading ornithologist and safari guide in Kenya, did just that last year. Terry, some of you will remember, enthralled over a hundred GGAS members two years ago with his spectacular slides of panoramic scenery, of teeming wildlife, of exotic birds, not to forget his witty and knowledgeable discussion. Terry Stevenson returns to lead us on safari again at our monthly meeting on October 8 at 7:30 in the Josephine Randall Junior Museum in San Francisco.

Terry, who has lived in Kenya since 1976, is the author of *Birds of Lake Baringo*. No better safari guide is available to those of you who plan on joining the GGAS Africa field trip in November, 1988. To those who've already been, nobody is better qualified to help you re-experience your adventures in East Africa than Terry Stevenson. And, to those who are simply crazy about Africa, this is the program for you.

TOM WHITE, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Sunday, Oct. 4—Alameda and San Leandro Bay Shoreline. Meet at **9 a.m.** in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Dr. We will bird the Elsie B. Roemer Bird Sanctuary. Shorebirds should be present in numbers, so bring a spotting scope if you have one. Bring lunch and liquids. Afternoon session will be local, but may include a search for interesting land-birds. Leader: Leora Feeney (522-8528). (✓)

Sunday, Oct. 4—Sunol Regional Park. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the Park Headquarters. Take I-680 south, exit at Calavaras Rd., go left and follow the signs to Sunol Park (about 5 miles). Bring lunch. We should see some wintering residents and fall migrants common to the interior. Leader: Art Edwards, (447-3720). (✓) \$

Sunday, Oct. 11—Beginners' trip to Coyote Hills Regional Park. Meet at **9 a.m.** at visitors center. Take

Please note that the Fall Bird Seed Sale is on
Saturday, October 17.
Details are on page 127 inside.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR (continued)

the Nimitz Frwy, (I-880) south to the Decoto Rd./Rt. 84 exit. Go west on 84 to Thornton Ave./Paseo Padre one mile to Patterson Ranch Rd., then left on Patterson Ranch Rd. to park entrance. Bring lunch and liquids, bring binoculars and field guide if you have them. This is a unique park with fresh water marsh habitat. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893). (✓)

Wednesday, Oct. 14—Mini-trip to Eastbay Shoreline. Meet at **9:15 a.m.** From Hwy. 80 in Emeryville take the Powell St. Off-ramp. Meet at the north end of the parking lot at the Holiday Inn. We will be looking for shorebirds of the area. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Jean Marie Spoelman and Anna Wilcox (351-9301).

Saturday, Oct. 24—Shorebirding identification at various locations in Point Reyes National Seashore. Meet at the Knave of Hearts Bakery at **8 a.m.** in Inverness Park, Sir Francis Drake Blvd. We will decide exactly where to go from there. Bring scopes if you have them, lunch and liquids and comfortable walking shoes. Leader Lina Jane Prairie (549-3187). (✓)

Saturday, Oct. 31—Pt. Isabel, Berkeley Marina and Emeryville Marina. Meet at **9 a.m.** at Pt. Isabel. From Hwy. 880 take the Central Ave. off-ramp in El Cerrito, turn towards the Bay and go to the end of the street. Turn right and go into the parking lot. We will be looking for waterfowl and

shorebirds. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leader: Ruth Dement (527-7923).

Sunday, Nov. 1—Tennessee Valley. Meet at **9 a.m.** and bring lunch. Going north across the Golden Gate Bridge, take the Mill Valley exit under the Richardson Bay Bridge and in one-half mile turn left at the Tennessee Valley sign. Drive to the end of the road. We will walk on the flat trail looking for land and sea birds. Rain cancels trip. Leader: Betty Short (921-3020 during working hours). (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-7022 and leave a message. She will call you.

Trips marked with a \$ go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Problems: If you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need additional information regarding a trip, call the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

OSPREY SIGHTINGS

Color-banded Osprey from the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon may be coming our way. Observations of banded birds (one, two or three colored bands could be seen) should be by letter to The Osprey Study, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, 61374 Parrell Rd., Bend, OR 97702 or by phone to the project leader, Jim Anderson at (503) 388-1659. He will accept collect calls.

MID—JULY TO MID-AUGUST OBSERVATIONS

July 8 through August 19

'Twas the season for the return of the shorebirds, and there were many observers to monitor the event. The local birders were joined by some of the AOU (American Ornithological Union) members who were in San Francisco attending the annual meeting, Aug. 10–13. Field trips were held in conjunction with the AOU, and participants were rewarded with some good finds.

The breeding season at SE Farallon Island was considered a success in spite of much higher than usual water temperatures. Only the Tufted Puffins ran into problems. Farallon biologists believe this lack of success was because the puffins are late breeders, and ocean productivity had declined by the time the chicks hatched. However, a few puffins fledged anyway. Reports from SE Farallon are for the period June 26–August 24. [Our thanks to Point Reyes Bird Observatory for all SE Farallon Island information.]

Tubenoses through Rails

A Laysan Albatross was seen near Cordell Bank the first week in August by the skipper of a fishing boat (*fide* SJ), providing an unusual August record for this species. One Black-vented Shearwater was found on a Monterey Bay pelagic trip Aug. 13 (SJ). Observers on an overnight pelagic trip off the continental shelf Aug. 15, which ranged from Sonoma to San Mateo Counties, were rewarded with sixteen Wilson's, forty Fork-tailed, and five Black Storm-Petrels, in addition to 2000 Ashy Storm-Petrels (SFB, JM). Two Wilson's, one Fork-tailed and two Black Storm-Petrels were seen on a

Cordell Bank pelagic trip Aug. 16 (SJ). A **Red-footed Booby** was found at Linda Mar Cove in Pacifica Aug. 14 (PB), and remained to Aug. 18. This rarity, described as a sub-adult light-phased bird, represents the third record of this species for California. The two previous birds were on SE Farallon Island in 1975. Single **Magnificent Frigatebirds** have been sighted at Salinas River Mouth June 30 (late report—GWP, *fide* DR); at SE Farallon July 2 (immature); flying north past the Monterey Waterfront July 11 (AB, *fide* BBrr); and a juvenal heading south past Davenport July 13 (DLSu). It is possible that all of these sightings represent one bird, or at the most two.

A Great Blue Heron off the continental shelf Aug. 15 surprised pelagic birders (SFB). An adult Little Blue Heron was reported flying past Rio Del Mar State Beach July 10 (DLSu). Another adult Little Blue Heron at the Alviso Unit of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge was a treat for the AOU field trip Aug. 14 (SFB). A Black Scoter, unusual inside the Bay, was found on the Alameda Co. side of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge July 23 (GrC). A Virginia Rail visited SE Farallon Aug. 18–24 for the Island's fifth record.

Shorebirds

Three Lesser Golden-Plovers were found in Marin Co. Aug. 15–16 (JCo, LJP, DWm), and one adult bird was at the Albany Mudflats Aug. 15 (AE). A Solitary Sandpiper flying south past Wilder Creek Beach July 19 was early (DLSu). Two other Solitarys arrived during the period: one at Limantour Beach Aug. 5 (MS), and one at Sebastopol Sewage Ponds Aug. 9 (RoM). Twenty-one Semipalmated Sandpipers were identified throughout our region (mob). The earliest three

were found at the Moonglow Dairy July 25 (SFB). A juvenal **Rufous-necked Stint** visited SE Farallon Aug. 15–16. This would be the first record of a juvenal plumaged bird for northern California if accepted by the California Bird Records Committee. About fifty Baird's Sandpipers have been noted throughout the region during the period (mob), with a high count of sixteen at SE Farallon on Aug. 16. Two Pectoral Sandpipers were found: one at Salinas Sewage Ponds Aug. 6–15 (CBe, mob), and one juvenal at Mt. View Forebay Aug. 8–13 (PLN). A **Curlew Sandpiper** was at Salinas Sewage Ponds July 10 (DEG, *fide* DR). Another breeding plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** was found in Yolo Co. at the Cache Creek Settling Basin (Trestle Ponds) Aug. 2 keeping company with Long-billed Dowitchers (HJo). Two Stilt Sandpipers found the Woodland Sugar Ponds: an adult was seen July 29 (GEw, MJL), and a bird in partial fall molt was there Aug. 1–4 (GEw, ALE, LJP, GKN). Two birds were seen there on Aug. 5 (GF_i). A female Ruff was spotted at Woodland Sugar Ponds July 25 (EDG), and a male Ruff was found on the western edge of Vallejo Aug. 4–5 (MB).

Jaegers through Alcids

Four Pomarine, ten Parasitic, and ten Long-tailed Jaegers, as well as ten Parasitic/Long-tailed Jaeger species and three South Polar Skuas were found on the Aug. 15 pelagic trip beyond the continental shelf Aug. 15 (JM, SFB, SJ). Increased numbers of birding trips beyond the continental shelf during the spring and summer months are helping to document the actual occurrence of these species throughout the year. Sabine's Gull numbers began to build, with pelagic birders out of Monterey finding one Aug. 1–2, nineteen Aug. 9,

and six on Aug. 13 (SJ). Forty-five Sabine's Gulls were seen on the Aug. 15 pelagic trip beyond the continental shelf (SFB, JM, SJ). The winter-plumaged Black Tern at Charleston Slough continued to be seen at least to Aug. 10 (RJ, LRF, LDC). High numbers of Marbled Murrelets were noted during the period (mob), primarily from San Mateo and Santa Cruz Cos., e.g., 20 seen at Ano Nuevo State Reserve Aug. 16 (RSTh). One observer tallied 271 Marbled Murrelets on a census of the Santa Cruz coastline July 10–13 (DLSu). One Xantus' Murrelet of the *hypoleuca* (white-faced) race was found eight miles southwest of Pt. Pinos on a Monterey pelagic trip Aug. 13 (SJ), a subspecies expected in small numbers during this year of warm ocean temperatures. From one to five Xantus' Murrelets of the race *scrippsi*, the expected one in northern waters, were found on most pelagic trips during the period (SJ, TJ, JM, SFB).

Landbirds

A White-winged Dove was just north of Bodega Bay on Hwy. 1 Aug. 11 (KH). Two Clark's Nutcrackers visited Mt. Tamalpais in early July and at least one was still present west of Mt. Home Inn July 15 (ScC, RMS). A Sage Thrasher was on SE Farallon Aug. 12–19. The male Northern Parula at the Bear Valley Headquarters was last noted July 12 (DGY). Two late reports of American Redstarts come from Tomales Bay State Park June 13 (RMS), and SE Farallon Island June 26. On the other hand, an American Redstart banded at Palomarin Aug. 17 (*fide* DDeS) hints of fall migration. An Ovenbird spent June 28–30 at SE Farallon, and a female Kentucky Warbler there July 14–17 was the eleventh and latest (spring) Island record. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was

still at Gazos Creek Road July 11 (MLR). An adult female Indigo Bunting was on SE Farallon Aug. 20-24. The pair of Great-tailed Grackles continued to be seen at Aquatic Park in San Francisco to Aug. 17, DW). An Orchard Oriole on SE Farallon Aug. 21 was considered early. An adult "Baltimore" Oriole was found at Lodi Lake Aug. 18 (DGY). Red Crossbills entertained AOU members by their presence on San Francisco State Campus, at Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park, and at Baker Beach Aug. 11-17 (KLG, JGE, JM, MTG).

Observers: Stephen F. Bailey, Alan Baldrige, Bruce Barrett (BBrr), Peggy Becket, Chris Benesh, Marray Berner, Scott Carey (ScC), Graham Chisholm (GrC), Laura D. Collins, John Comstock (JCo), Sally Dennett, David DeSante (DDeS), Art L. Edwards, Richard A. Erickson, Jules G. Evans, Gil Ewing (GEw), Leora R. Feeney, George Finger (GF), Shawneen E. Finnegan, Roland Franz, Kimball L. Garrett, Douglas E. George, Edward D. Greaves, Michael T. Green, Keith Hansen, Bob Hirt, Alan S. Hopkns, George Hugenberg, Richard Jeffers, Hans Johansen (HJo), Tom Johnson, Clay Kempf (CKf), Ted H. Koundakjian, Tony Leonardini, Michael J. Lippmeyer, Tim D. Manolis, many observers (mob), Roger Marlowe (RoM), Wayne Meyer, Mark C. Miller, Joseph Morlan, Gary K. Neil, Paul L. Noble, Gary W. Page, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Peter Pyle), Lina J. Prairie, Dave E. Quady, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Debra Love Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, Morrie Stern, Robert M. Stewart, David L. Suddjian (DLSu), Ron S. Thorn (RSTh), David Weintraub, David Wimpfheimer

(DWm), Chris Wolfe, Betty Wyatt, David G. Yee.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288 or 524-5592.

—HELEN A GREEN
Observations Editor
2001 Yolo Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94707

CONSERVATION NOTES WHO FOUGHT THE WAR?

We hope when you read this the fateful WATER WAR of 1987 will have been won (but probably only temporarily) with the defeat of Senator Ayala's and Assemblyman Costa's water diversion bills.

If so, it's important that we recognize the organization primarily responsible for battling these evil bills. The Planning and Conservation League (PCL) is the environmental organization whose task is to act as our lobbyist in Sacramento. The Bay Area Audubon chapters, including GGAS, help support PCL and we are represented on its board of directors. In this latest water war it was PCL that did almost all the work. They alerted the media, pressed for editorials opposing the diversions, lobbied the legislature, involved other environmental groups and organized opposition to the bills. We owe PCL (909 12th St., Sacramento, CA 95814) thanks and support.

There is another group of people to whom we are indebted, the legislators who fought hard in opposition to this environmental disaster: Willie Brown, Assembly Speaker; Assemblymen Tom Bates, Bob Campbell, and Phil Isenberg and Senator Nick Petris. All are from the GGAS area, except Sacramento Assemblyman Isenberg. Thanks to them all!

BACK YARD BIRDER

Apparently, bird watching is one of the fastest-growing hobbies, attracting fans of all ages. Perhaps the stereotypical L. O. L. in tennis shoes (or brogans for moor-striding) will be put to rest now! Patience and the self-assurance to ignore the stares and laughs of passers-by are prerequisites. A good ear and an eye for details plus the use of some scientific methods are helpful too. It can be relatively inexpensive, accounting for the large number of back yard birder types.

I try to enroll in birding field trips because I always learn some new tips from different leaders. The Bay Area offers a variety of habitats to explore. I wanted to know more about the bay marshes and the birds therein. So began a search for the secretive rails, members of a larger family, *rallidae*, which also includes crakes, coots and gallinules.

To hunt for rails, one should arise early (the hardest part of birding for me). Both Coyotes Hills in Fremont and Palo Alto Baylands are excellent habitat with board walks built into the marshlands. This certainly improves your chances of getting where the rails are! Imagine trying to sneak up on *any* bird with dry reeds crackling underfoot or, worse, with shoes being swallowed by mud! Stealth is vital to success in spotting these shy birds. A tape recorder with the calls of the Virginia, Clapper or Black Rails is helpful in coaxing answers from the depths of the marshes.

Rails range in size from 6 to 16" and are hard to spot in their somber plumage. Their legs are somewhat long, supporting chicken-like bodies which are compressed laterally for ease in walking amid dense vegetation. They wade in shallow water and swim quite well (though their toes are not webbed).

They hate to take to the air, preferring to hide in the reeds. Any morsel of the right size, animal or vegetable, will be snapped up by beaks varying in size and shape, according to species. As you might guess, their "songs" fit the environment. Calls comprised of clicks, cackles, whinnies or pumping noises sound more like frogs or insects than birds. They are more often heard before they are seen; hence the tape recordings.

As we tiptoed along the boardwalks, we spotted a variety of songbirds: Song Sparrows, Common Yellow-throats, Savannah Sparrows, Lincoln's Sparrows and a Marsh Wren singing so loudly we could see his tongue. Out on the bay were flotillas of various ducks, while overhead wheeled a Red-tailed Hawk. A Northern Harrier cruised low in search of mice. Plenty of action! Suddenly, nearly underfoot, came the metallic clicks of a Virginia Rail as it swam to a bank and literally melted into the reeds. We exulted even as we expressed disappointment at such a brief glimpse. I suspect that if rails stood around waiting to be admired, the thrill would soon disappear! They're certainly not the most beautiful birds, nor the most musical, nor the most interesting. But, like any mysterious creature, the rail's shy manner and elusiveness make it an exciting bird to sight. The Clapper Rail is even more difficult to find since its habitat is disappearing and it is only found very locally. The small Black Rail blends in so perfectly with the low salt grasses that it has to move to be seen.

If you're in a sleuthing frame of mind, consider a rail hunt. Even if you aren't lucky, a marshland visit is full of bird life and other surprises. You may even see a seal or an otter!

—MEG PAULETICH

Place
Stamp
Here

TAKE A PLUNGE, ENRICH YOUR LIFE, JOIN US.

☐ YES, I WANT TO VOLUNTEER.

MY INTERESTS ARE:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> The GULL | <input type="checkbox"/> FUND RAISING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM ORGANIZING | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> COMPUTER DATA ENTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> ASSIST WITH REFRESHMENTS |

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- ☐ _____ HOURS EACH _____
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I AM WILLING TO:

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() MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION OF \$ _____ TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I HAVE THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

(attach additional sheets if you need more room for suggestions)

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

ROBERT SHEDDEN SOCIETY

1550 Shattuck Ave., #204

BERKELEY, CA 94709

GSAS NEEDS HELP AND YOU CAN HAVE FUN HELPING

Any volunteer organization depends on those who come forward to help. Come join the brave few who make GGAS function. Our committees need new members and we need help in the office. It is, you will find, fun, and the people who are active are people you will enjoy meeting and working with. The insert will give you a way of getting involved. Please fill it out and give us your suggestions, but more important, give of yourself, too. Or come to the monthly meeting and talk with one of the directors, or drop in at the office and talk with Barbara Rivenes.

GGAS BIRD SEED SALE

Saturday, Oct. 17 we will have extra seed available again at our Fall Seed Sale to accommodate those who have not pre-ordered. There will also be several varieties of bird feeders for sale **AND** the 1988 Mono Lake Calendar (simply gorgeous) at a bargain price of \$8.00 including tax.

The San Francisco sale location and hours are the same **657A South Van Ness Ave.**, between 17th and 18th Sts., from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

The Berkeley sale site is **new: 812 Page St.**, (the Trout Plumbing warehouse and yard), north of Cedar and west of 6th St. We will be there from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** to encourage any disappointed bird feeders who couldn't squeeze into those old short Saturday hours.

Please support this extra effort by showing up in droves. Volunteers arise and come forth to help fill the extra hours! Just call 843-2222.

BIRDING CLASSES IN SF

Evening bird classes will be offered through the San Francisco Community College starting in November. Fees will be \$40 for each seven-week course, payable in advance through the Community Services Office or at the first scheduled meeting. For information on walk-in or mail-in registration, call the Community Services Office, 776-8247.

All classes will be held in room 227, Marina Middle School at the corner of Bay and Filmore Streets. Free parking is available in the school lot off Bay St. on the east side of the building.

Each class stresses identification, status and habits of North American birds in two-and-a-half hour weekly slide-lectures. The text for all classes is the *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* by the National Geographic Society. The instructor is **Joe Morlan**, co-author of *Birds of Northern California*, and compiler of the weekly recorded "Northern California Rare Bird Alert", which can be reached by calling 528-0288.

Ornithology I is an introduction to avian biology. It stresses concepts in modern ornithology, including systematics, evolution, behavior and population ecology, illustrated by examples from North American bird families especially common California birds. It meets Tuesdays starting November 3 from 7-9:30 p.m.

Ornithology II is an in-depth systematic study of identification and status of landbirds including tanagers and finches. It meets Wednesdays starting November 4 from 7-9:30 p.m.

Ornithology III is a continuation of Ornithology II covering waterbirds including terns and alcids. It meets Thursdays starting November 5 from 7-9:30 p.m.

These classes are recommended and sponsored by GGAS. Optional field trips may be arranged on weekends. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. For more information call the Community Service office at 776-8247. The text is available at the GGAS office.

FREMONT BIRDING CLASSES

Another series of birding classes is offered by Alice Hoch and the Fremont Adult School beginning Nov. 3 and ending Dec. 15, with no class on Nov. 24th. The Tuesday morning classes meet from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call the Adult School at 791-5841 for more information.

VOLUNTEER FOR COAST CLEAN-UP

Saturday, Oct. 10, volunteers will participate, as a part of the California Coastal Commission's "Coast Week", in a day of clean-up from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a barbeque at 4 p.m. to reward the volunteers.

Sponsoring agencies include the East Bay Regional Park District, Hayward Area P&R, Alameda County, the county Flood Control and Water Conservation District, SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and several city governments.

Crews will help remove litter, old tires, and other man-made flotsam from public shoreline between Oyster Bay, San Leandro and the Santa Clara County line. Participants should wear old clothes, sturdy shoes, bring gloves and their own lunches. To obtain more information or to volunteer for the Oct. 10 clean-up, phone Jane Moorhead at the EBRPD, 530-4875.

VANISHED WATERS

A History of San Francisco's Mission Bay

by Nancy Olmstead

Nothing is more entertaining than the truth well told. "...It is necessary to untangle a cat's cradle of promises, court decisions, legislative actions, speculators' schemes and planners' visions." Scandals in high places unfold in a drama peopled by loveable rogues. Now for the first time, the history of the once immense tidal cove of Mission Bay is revealed.

Profusely illustrated.

Many rare maps and views.

This small edition may be hard to find in bookstores.

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The perfect gift for someone who loves San Francisco history!



Fishing Off Long Bridge. 1869

BAY AREA BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS

The BABP meets at Baylands on the Peninsula, usually the first Wednesday of each month. Their October meeting will be the second Wednesday, and November will return to the first

The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and the speaker will be Mike Danzenbaker. Write the organization at 1019 Loma Prieta Ct., Los Altos, CA 94022 for further information.

Tracks in the Sky BENEFIT

It's not too late to reserve your places at the California Academy of Sciences on Tuesday, Oct. 13 from 7-9 p.m. (Please note change in time). See *The GULL* for September (pages 113-114) or phone Lynn Tennefoss at 329-1811.

NEW PUBLICATION

Kurt F. Campbell, a regional editor for American Birds, announces that his newsletter, *The Reminder*, has developed into something more ambitious called *PICA*. It began as a communication to observers reporting to him for American birds. Annual subscription (five issues) is \$8, a sample copy will be sent for \$1. Checks should be made to "Kurt Campbell—*PICA*." Inquiries should be sent to him.

Box 268, Cotati, CA 94928
(707) 795-8492.

IN THE TETONS

A meadow quite near Ox Bow Bend of the Snake River in the Grand Teton National Park was the best birding spot in the area according to the ranger we consulted. It seemed to be. We saw three Sandhill Cranes come in over tall pines to land out of sight beyond an island; we watched the elegance of a pair of Osprey circling above the bend. Now and then one would plop into the river, come up with a fish and fly off to a tree-top to feed. We saw mergansers, terns and White Pelicans, Great Blue Herons, Canada Geese, plovers, a Western Kingbird, Violet-

green Swallows, a Kestrel, and Clark's Nutcrackers, Gray Jays and Ravens that first evening.

Coming back the next day at the recommended time (6:30 to 8 p.m.) we saw most of the same again, though not the cranes. The mergansers with a flotilla of exceedingly active little ones were thrashing about the shallow water near shore. But on this second evening we saw an Osprey bring up a trout almost too large to handle. He had struggled with the fish, staining the water with its blood, and was barely airborne again, when without warning a male Bald Eagle made his appearance. Oh! he was splendid to see. The Eagle plunged down toward the Osprey. It was handicapped by the weight of its fish and was flying with obvious effort. To defend himself the Osprey released the fish and with a swoop the Eagle took it in mid-air. The Osprey half-heartedly followed the Eagle but was quickly out-distanced by the more powerful bird. It left us feeling embarrassed by our national bird's rapacity and with typically strong sympathy for the underbird. But all that aside, the incident was an exciting one to witness. The grace and beauty of the Osprey and the equal grace, beauty and greater strength of the Bald Eagle are unforgettable.

The third evening we watched a female adult Bald Eagle perched at tree-top calling softly—one would never have guessed that it was eagle-talk, it was so sweet and plaintive. It was otherwise disappointing. After a brief appearance one Osprey flew off to the west. There were waterbirds and shorebirds but nothing unusual.

—DON SANFORD

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch
Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach
(415) 868-9244
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education Under Joint Sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies
Rick Baird, Chairman

Audubon Canyon Ranch is repeating some of its more popular programs this fall as well as offering some outstanding new ones. All you have to do is make a reservation by calling the NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER (415) 868-9244.

Something a little different for ACR is a Financial Planning Seminar to be held at the Marin Art and Garden Center in Ross on October 31 from 10 a.m. to noon. Paul Ruby, Robert Hamilton and other Bay Area financial experts will be on hand to answer the question, "What will Tax Reform Mean to You?" There is no charge.

OCTOBER 17/18 a program entitled, *Evolution Seminar for Life Science Teachers* will be held in Volunteer Canyon at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. While it is for teachers and offers one unit of continuing education credit, parents will find it interesting in light of the current controversy over books and teachings on evolution. PhD speakers include Matt James, Charles Sibley, Vincent Sarich, Devin Padias and William Bennetta.

OCTOBER 24/25 is a Single Parent Family Halloween weekend at BLP. Make masks, bake treats, explore the mysteries of misunderstood animals and launch a Jack-O-Lantern on the lagoon.

OCTOBER 24 at the Bouverie Audubon Preserve in Sonoma Foley Benson will again hold his class on

Native American Life Styles. Walk back in time and peek into the cave behind Stewart Falls. A chance to explore the heritage of the first Californians.

OCTOBER 31—Here's a free lunch for a day of accomplishment. It's the annual Fall Work Day at BLP. Help staff plant, water, till, label, cook, and work in the library. It will be over in time to get home for Trick or Treaters.

NOVEMBER 7—Bouverie Fall Color Hike. Experience The Valley of the Moon in autumn. You'll learn about bird migration, native fruits, mammal tracks, earthstars and the unexpected.

NOVEMBER 14—A special double header hike to Cypress Grove and Tom's Point. It will cover some usually inaccessible points along Tomales Bay.

Because of the great popularity of the Bouverie Community Hikes last year there will be two instead of one for the months of October and November. So mark your calendar now for these Saturdays: October 17 and 31, November 14 and 28, and December 19. Each hike is limited to 35 people and begins at 9:30 a.m. To avoid disappointment, make your reservation right away by calling (707) 938-4554.

ACR manager, Skip Schwartz, reports a generous donation from U.S. Leasing and a substantial contribution from Margaret Quigley, who gave Tom's Point to ACR in 1985. Her recent donation will be used in support of ACR's Tomales Bay Research and Education Program.

ANTARCTICA IS NEXT FOR MONO LAKE

The Alaskan odyssey of June 1987 raised over \$10,000 for Mono Lake and, now, we hope our antics in Antarctica in 1989 will do as well for the cause.

This odyssey to Antarctica will provide wondrous sights of ice, snow, water, land and the forces of nature at work. Also, there will be splendid closeup view of a variety of sea mammals, penguins and other birds. All those factors make for a mecca for photographers, nature-lovers, curiosity seekers and travel adventurers. Antarctica is a vast, untamed, awesome place which is a stage for high adventure that only a few can experience.

Our cruise to "The Shining Continent" will be aboard Society Expedition's *World Discoverer*, a 140-passenger ship that offers luxury accommoda-

tions and excellent cuisine. Highly qualified lecturers will give talks and discussions about the history, wildlife, geology, oceanography and meteorology of each of our destinations. Zodiacs, inflatable boats, will carry us to rookeries and beaches to observe wildlife and visit research stations.

The Mono lake Committee has reserved ten cabins on *World Discoverer*. The cost of the 15-day excursion which originates in Miami on January 29, 1989 is approximately \$6,000 for Mono Lake Committee members. This includes all expenses of the trip and \$500 of the cost is tax-deductible. Air fare is additional. If you are interested in receiving a brochure giving full information and an invitation to a trip preview, send a self-addressed, stamped 4½ by 9½ inch envelope to: M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708, and you'll receive a reply in December.

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Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

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The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.